

Welcome to the NEW Developments!

If you're receiving Developments for the first time, Welcome! If you're used to seeing Developments in its former magazine format, Welcome!

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development has redesigned Developments to make it more user-friendly while still providing you the news you need about DWD programs and services.

We'd love to hear what you think about our new format. Please send your thoughts on the new format, as well as ideas for future Developments topics, to dwieland@dwd.state.in.us.

Employment Trends

Unemployment Stats Delayed

Release dates for January through April data do not follow the usual monthly schedule due to longer processing time required for annual benchmarking.

An additional factor extending the normal benchmark process this year is the conversion of the Current Employment Statistics (CES) to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

The January numbers will be released on March 28.

February Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

Week of 2-1-03	86,576
Week of 2-8-03	88,547
Week of 2-15-03	87,884
Week of 2-22-03	87,441

JOBS Facts

Job Opportunities and Business Services

Once implemented, the JOBS initiative will more than double the of money Indiana spends on its current employment service program, which is approximately \$14 million per year statewide. For more information about JOBS visit www.in.gov/gov/energize.

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Frank O'Bannon, Governor

Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Developments

HOOSIER WORKERS & LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE NEWS

Breaking News

Governor O'Bannon Appoints Alan Degner to Head DWD

Governor Frank O'Bannon appointed Alan Degner to be commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "I am looking forward to being a part of this great team and to working with our partners throughout the state," Degner said.

Degner comes to DWD after several years in state government. He started in Legislative Services as a fiscal analyst before moving to the Economic Development Council. He served as Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan's chief of staff from July 2001 through January 2003.

According to Degner, "One of the most important elements for ensuring a strong economy is access to a prepared workforce. Whether we are helping an individual as they search for a new job, or joining forces with our local partners to provide training and skill enhancements, DWD helps to prepare Hoosier workers for the high-skill, high-wage jobs of tomorrow."

A native of North Judson in Starke County, Degner is a graduate of Purdue University's Krannert School of Management.

Lake County Awarded Federal Grant to Train Nurses

The Department of Workforce Development announced a \$116,603 federal grant to train 42 registered nurses in Lake County. The Lake County Integrated Services Delivery Board is coordinating the project with five hospitals and one mental health facility. The healthcare facilities will provide \$684,326 in matching funds.

DWD commissioner, Alan Degner said, "This grant will help address the growing healthcare staff shortage affecting Northwest Indiana as well as the rest of the state. Our goal is to supply the workforce with skilled labor while providing Hoosiers with career and income growth potential."

The grant is part of Indiana's Skills 2016 initiative, which is intended to give Indiana companies a competitive edge through a well-trained adaptable workforce. It is made possible through federal Workforce Investment Act dollars that Indiana receives each year for innovative training programs. To find out more about these grants, go to www.workforce.in.gov/skills2016.

Career and Technical Education Celebrates 19 Years of Excellence

The 19th annual Indiana Career and Technical Education Awards for Excellence celebration was held in the Government Center on February 11, 2003. Students, vocational programs, partnerships and services were recognized for contributing to the high quality of vocational and technical education in the state of Indiana.

State Superintendent of Instruction Suellen Reed addressed the awardees at a luncheon in their honor. The winners then stood before the Indiana Senate while a resolution was read. After the group received their awards from newly appointed DWD commissioner Al Degner, a reception was provided by the Ivy Tech State College School of Culinary Arts.

The awards are sponsored by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development Commission on Vocational and Technical Education in cooperation with the Indiana Association for Career and Technical Education. For more information visit www.workforce.IN.gov/education/teched.